

**Provide a list of NGOs and a brief description of joint efforts (OGAP and ORBA)**

1. EPA is working with the International Water Association (IWA) to improve the provision of clean and safe water in East Africa through the development of Water Safety Plans, which provide water utilities with a risk-based, preventative approach to managing water supplies with the cooperation of other key stakeholders. The program has launched an African Water Safety Plan Network to achieve reliable, consistent and equitable supplies of safe drinking water in Africa by promoting the implementation of WSPs through information dissemination, knowledge sharing and support for capacity building. Network partners include EPA, IWA, the Network for Water and Sanitation (NETWAS), Aquaya (funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation), the African Water Association, WHO, UNEP, UNDP and UN-Habitat.
2. Transparency and public participation is an integral part of the work we do in the Middle East and Africa. Environmental NGOs and other stakeholders, including the private sector, contribute to the decision-making process in aspects of our programs. NGOs and other stakeholders are a part of many of trainings and workshops we've hosted, particularly on strengthening public participation in environmental decision-making. A few of the NGOs participating include the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), the Greenbelt Movement, and Friends of the Earth Middle East (FOEME). These NGOs have either participated in the workshops, contributed directly to the development and improvement of the Public Participation Guide, or we have worked directly in partnership with them to design and organize a public participation program, this is the case with the Greenbelt Movement.
3. The North America Agreement on Environmental Cooperation, the NAFTA environmental side agreement, specifically calls for transparency and public participation in all aspects of the work of the organization. Both through domestic public advisory committees, and through the trilateral public participation advisory mechanism created by the agreement, the Joint Public Advisory Committee, environmental NGOs and other stakeholders, including the private sector, contribute to the decision-making process within the CEC.
4. EPA coordinated and managed the Public Participation small grants program in the CAFTA-DR countries (El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Guatemala and Dominican Republic) under an inter-agency agreement with Department of State. The purpose of the program was to increase public participation in the region by selecting a NGO— in the U.S. or in the region through a competitive process-- to conduct a pilot project related to any of the environmental areas covered under the EPA CAFTA-DR capacity building action plan. For example, in Honduras the local NGO ECO-ESFERA was awarded a small grant to develop an environmental education program in the Municipality of El Paraiso. In El Salvador, the U.S. NGO Partners for Democratic Change was awarded the small grant and worked with the local NGO, Centro de Protección Para Desasteres (CEPRODE), to increase public participation and environmental decision-making in the Angue River to promote education, strengthen

existing networks and community associations that are involved in the management of the river basin.

5. Cooperation between US EPA and the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to address Russian legacy contaminated sites.
  - The project is being implemented under the Environmental Working Group of the US-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission (BPC). The success of this project is in the cooperative efforts that have been made to address environmental problems of mutual concern. Handling legacy wastes is one of the top priorities for both the US and Russia:
    - a. Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment is developing federal programs for management of legacy wastes.
    - b. New Russian legislation is undergoing interagency review.
    - c. The new targeted Russian federal budget is undergoing interagency approval.
    - d. EPA has over 30 years of experience in implementing the CERCLA (Superfund) Program. Russian colleagues have a great interest in EPA's lessons learned.
    - e. Both countries have expressed interest in "green-technology" transfer.
  - This project addresses the following soft diplomacy objectives:
  - Strengthening the capacity of Russian governmental institutions, communities and NGOs by improving skills in policy development, planning, implementation, strategic communication; public participation, and the availability of and access to information.
  - Increased participation of regional and municipal governments, indigenous communities, and environmental NGOs in the development of a national policy on the remediation of contaminated sites.
  - Protecting the health and well-being of affected vulnerable communities by reducing global sources of pollution.
  - Strengthening cooperation and improving relations between the US and Russia.
  - Promoting international goodwill, the joint work on environmental improvement helping to create a positive view of Americans with the Russian people.
  - Creating opportunities for US industry to enter the Russian market, through focusing on green remediation and hazardous waste destruction technologies.

Partners: US Embassy Moscow, US Department of State, US Department of Commerce, US private sector, Russian Ministries of Natural Resources and Economic Development, NGOs.

**Provide a couple of case studies narratives with other predominantly International USG agencies (e.g., DOS, USAID, etc) (OGAP and ORBA)**

1. EPA has been working with DOS on the Arctic Black Carbon Initiative to reduce black carbon from diesel sources in the Russian Arctic. The program has four components all addressing diesel sources of black carbon: scoping and assessment, an emissions

inventory, pilot mitigation projects and financing and policy recommendations. DOS has provided financial, logistical, and high-level engagement support as well as presented at workshops and participated in program meetings in Moscow. The program reports to both the US-Russia Bilateral Presidential Commission's Environment Working Group and the Arctic Council's Arctic Contaminants Action Program.

2. The Middle East program receives its funds through interagency agreements with State Department, and in the past, USAID, to fulfill the US Free Trade Agreements. Through these agreements, we've worked in Jordan, Morocco, Oman, with participation from the entire region.
3. Many activities undertaken by ORBA in the North America context affords us an opportunity to work closely with several federal, state and local agencies through the CEC annual work plan. For example the Big Bend-Río Bravo Collaboration for Transboundary Landscape Conservation North American Invasive Species Network project centers on conserving the unique biological diversity in the Big Bend-Río Bravo region of Mexico and the US, using sound scientific data to address the region's growing vulnerability to biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, and providing a model for collaboration among different decision-makers and partnerships focused on transboundary conservation work in other areas. Additionally, the North American Invasive Species Network (NAISN) support of the Big Bend-Río Bravo Collaboration will allow future extension of data-sharing protocols and best management practices to other multi-jurisdictional landscapes and landscape projects, such as the US-Canada border parks partnership. In this case, our partners include DOS, DOI, Fish & Wildlife Service as well as State & local agencies and communities in Texas.
4. Under CAFTA-DR, EPA works with several USG agencies to ensure that the environmental capacity building program--led by the Agency—helps the member countries meet the FTA's Chapter 17—Environment—goals and objectives. For example, EPA works closely with DOS and AID prior, during and after the development and implementation of the environmental program action plan to ensure that key agreed upon regional environmental priorities are addressed through targeted capacity building programs. As part of such effort, EPA has worked with other USG agencies like DOJ on enforcement training as well as DOI on the EIA technical guide for the tourism sector.

**Provide a couple of case studies narratives re: strong partnership with AmEmbassy's.  
(OGAP and ORBA)**

1. China is the most populated country in the world. In the wake of its massive economic growth, many cities in China are routinely suffering extremely hazardous air quality episodes. In 2010, PM 2.5 pollution caused 1.2 million premature deaths in China according to the Health Effects Institute. In January 2013 alone, Beijing experienced 21 days of air pollution ranked "hazardous" or "beyond index" by EPA standards. The measurements were so high that they were literally beyond any index that had been created by U.S. EPA. At the time, there was very little reliable reporting available to the public from the Chinese Government. Many pollutants generated in China are

transported by air currents to, and directly effect the environment of, many cities in the United States.

- a. Operating in this context, staff at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing took it up on themselves to work with EPA to monitor the air quality by the U.S. Embassy and consulates in China and to report it to the large American community based in country. This move resulted in not only in the American community using the data to try to reduce exposure, but has informed Chinese citizens and other foreign residents about the extent of the problem. An informed Chinese public pressured the Chinese government to improve reporting and to take serious action to reduce air pollution.
  - b. The partnership between EPA and the U.S. Embassy in Beijing was critical to this success. The U.S. Embassy reporting put significant pressure on the Chinese government. The State Department holds up its air monitors in China as one of its best examples of soft diplomacy. It was not enough to purchase air monitors and stick them on the roof of our Embassy. If the monitoring and reporting effort was to succeed, we needed to make sure that the data was measured and reported as accurately and near to real-time as possible. A team of EPA air quality experts worked with the Embassy to train the embassy and develop the quality control/quality assurance needed. The Team addressed how to explain discrepancies between the U.S. reporting and the reporting by the Chinese government. It identified what steps people should take to protect their health during high pollution episodes and how to communicate these steps to the public.
2. The American Embassy in Moscow has been a key partner for EPA's diesel black carbon in the Russian Arctic Initiative, providing technical and logistical support for meetings and attended all of the stakeholder meetings and workshops in Moscow.
3. With all the work we do in the Middle East, we always have a close, working relationship with the American embassies. They help us to organize our events, always participating in one form or another. During the planning of a major public participation workshop held in Morocco, the American embassies were significantly helpful in helping us identify participants. During the workshop, they helped us set up great media coverage, as well as partly participate in the workshop. They gave a few words during opening speeches. In Jordan and Morocco, the Embassies helped us to set up integral meetings and participated in many of our meetings and activities.
4. The trilateral nature of our work in the CEC has not afforded us an opportunity to build strong partnerships with the American Embassies in Canada & Mexico.